



## PRESS RELEASE

Cologne, July, 14, 2015

**With many high-class artists and opportunities to get involved the CityLeaks Urban Art Festival is going into its third round from September 1 to 20, 2015 under the motto “The city that does not exist”. The corresponding crowdfunding campaign will start at the end of July.**

More than 30 representatives of fine, performing and applied arts, including international names such as **Vhils aka Alexandre Farto (POR), Boris Tellegen (NED), DOMA (ARG), Axel Void (USA), the Cie. Willi Dorner (AUT)** and many more are invited to use the public place as stage and enrich Cologne with new artworks. In addition to the many murals, performances and installations, one can also look forward to unconventional projects using the works of the Nobel Prize winning poet **Herta Müller**.

But not only artists are asked to think and work with the urban space. This year offers a lot of different opportunities to participate and think about the many facets of the topic urbanity.

All according to the question: What is the city doing to us, and what are we doing to the city?

This is where the web tool CityWatch comes into play. On this platform everyone can post pictures of deserted buildings and other non-places in the Cologne area and share them on the CityLeaks homepage as well as add comments and ideas about the use of these places. <http://cityleaks-festival.com/citywatch/>

Additionally, the **Urban Art Congress** will take place for the first time from August 8 to 30, 2015, inviting to develop ideas in discussions, research labs and city strolls. Among invited scientists, journalists, artists and city planners topics like “Prospects for a Right to Urbanity”, “Artistic (Re)-Negotiation of the Urban or: Creative Cities” and “Urban Events and Developments” will be discussed.

As a special highlight, the attendees of the congress can become part of a rehearsal and conception process by Drama Köln e.V. Together with the artists and within the scope of an open lab; the city will be investigated towards its contact ability with interior and artistic space. The previously negotiated questions about perception and creation of urban space can then be examined practically, creatively and on-site together with the artists on August 29, 2015.

From September 24, 2015 on, audiences can witness how these excursions form a live audio drama in “Die Stimme der Dinge oder das Konzert der Welt” at the Club King Georg.

Interested persons can also participate in the realisation of the festival. End of July a large **crowdfunding campaign** will be launched. All CityLeaks enthusiasts can find updates on the online platform startnext and help to fill the last financial gaps. The festival will even offer a private façade design from artists as a thank-you.

Numerous festival partners, ideas and innovations for the third instalment of CityLeaks as well as all program highlights will be introduced during the **press conference taking place on Thursday, August 27, 2015, 11 a.m.** at the CityLeaks Festival Centre at Carlswerk Site (Building 403, Kupferwerk) Schanzenstr. 6-20, 51063 Cologne

Please register for the event by August, 15, 2015 (see press accreditation).



**The Urban Art Festival CityLeaks 2015 takes place September 1 to 20, 2015, this time with a focus on the Cologne district of Mülheim. As a prelude serves the Urban Art Congress, which takes place August 28 to 30, 2015.**

Organiser of the international CityLeaks Urban Art Festival is the Cologne art association artrmx e.V. The CityLeaks Urban Art Festival 2015 stands under the patronage of Gabriele Hammelrath (SPD) Member of the State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The festival is sponsored by the Ministry for Families, Children, Youth, Culture and Sports of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, The Department of Art and Culture of the City of Cologne, the RheinEnergie foundation for culture and the district administrations of Cologne-Ehrenfeld and Cologne-Mülheim.

Furthermore the festival is supported by its main sponsors AkzoNobel Deco GmbH, **a leading global paints and coatings company and a major producer of specialty chemicals as well as GL Verleih NRW GmbH, the regional and trans-regional specialist in powered access. The CityLeaks Urban Art Festival 2015 is also supported by the event sponsors Absolut Vodka, Japan Tobacco International, Beck's pilsner and Früh Kölsch.**

#### **PRESS CONTACT**

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